Import of Coal for NTPC Projects

2485. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Talcher and Rihand project of NTPC have been allowed to run partly on imported coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether domestic collieries are not in a position to meet the demand of these projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Import of coal is under Open General Licence and a consumer is free to import coal without restriction. Ministry of Power has reported that Talcher and Rihand STPS of NTPC have not imported any coal during the year 2003-04. However NTPC plans to import 1.75 lakh tonnes of coal per month with effect from April, 2005 aggregating 2.1 million tonnes per annum to bridge the demand and supply gap of indigenous coal.

(c) With the existing capacity of linked mines, Coal India Limited (CIL) is not in a position to meet the full requirement of four units of Rihand and six units of Talcher STPS, at present. However, CIL has been endeavouring to supplement shortfall in supplies from linked mines by offering coal from alternative sources.

(d) Rihand Stage-I, with 2 units of 500 MW each, has a long-term linkage on Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) for a quantity of 3.2 MTPA. Rihand Stage-ll, with another 2 units of 500 MW each, has a long-term linkage of **4.48** MT. Coal supply to stage-l is dependent primarily on Amlohari Mines, along with alternative sources like Dudhichua, Mines of NCL. Supply for Stage-ll is dependent on the up-coming Amlohri expansion project. Talcher Super TPS Phase-I & Phase-ll (capacity 6 x 500 MW) requires coal to the tune of 15.0 million tonnes per annum. In order to supply coal to this STPS, three Open Cast Mines of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) with a total capacity of 23.50 million tonnes per annum are being developed. As the production of coal from these mines will take some time, in the meantime NTPC have been offered coal from Talcher project of MCL.